

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A toner for image formation, which is produced by dispersing in an aqueous solvent a toner composition ~~which comprises~~ comprising (1) a composition ~~which~~ that is thermally soluble in an organic solvent and (2) a coloring agent, thereby forming toner particles, wherein said thermally soluble composition comprises a polyester with an acid value and at least one of a metal alcolate ~~[[and/]]~~ and a metal chelate compound, the metal alcolate and the metal chelate compound having a reactivity with the polyester with an acid value.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A toner for image formation, which is produced by dispersing in an aqueous solvent a toner composition ~~which comprises~~ comprising (1) a composition thermally soluble in an organic solvent and (2) a coloring agent, thereby forming toner particles, wherein when said solvent is eliminated from said toner composition, said thermally soluble composition comprises a gel structure comprising a polyester with an acid value and at least one of a metal alcolate ~~[[and/]]~~ and a metal chelate compound, the metal alcolate and the metal chelate compound having a reactivity with the polyester with an acid value.

Claim 3 (Original): The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said acid value of said polyester is

in the range of from 3 KOH/g to 4 mg KOH/g.

Claim 4 (Original): The toner as claimed in claim 2, wherein said acid value of said polyester is

in the range of from 3 mg KOH/g to 4 mg KOH/g.

Claim 5 (Original): The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein said metal alcolate and/or metal chelate compound comprises at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of aluminum ion, titanium ion, and zirconium ion.

Claim 6 (Original): The toner as claimed in claim 2, wherein said metal alcolate and/or metal chelate compound comprises at least one metal ion selected from the group consisting of aluminum ion, titanium ion, and zirconium ion.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A method of producing a toner for image formation ~~[[by]], comprising~~ dispersing in an aqueous solvent a toner composition ~~which comprises~~ comprising (1) a composition ~~which~~ that is thermally soluble in an organic solvent and (2) a coloring agent, thereby forming toner particles, wherein said thermally soluble composition comprises a polyester with an acid value and at least one of a metal alcolate ~~[[and/]]~~ and a metal chelate compound, the metal alcolate and the metal chelate compound having a reactivity with the polyester with an acid value.

Claim 8 (Original): A container comprising a toner according to claim 1.

Claim 9 (Original): A container comprising a toner according to claim 2.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ In a toner cartridge comprising a toner, the improvement comprising using as the toner a toner according to claim 1.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ In a toner cartridge comprising a toner, the improvement comprising using as the toner a toner according to claim 2.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ In a process cartridge comprising a toner, the improvement comprising using as the toner a toner according to claim 1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): ~~[[A]]~~ In a process cartridge comprising a toner, the improvement comprising using as the toner a toner according to claim 2.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): ~~[[An]]~~ In an image forming apparatus, to which a toner container comprising a toner is detachably attached, wherein said toner container comprises the improvement comprising using as the toner a toner according to claim 1.

Claim 15 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said toner container is a toner cartridge.

Claim 16 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said toner container is a process cartridge.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): ~~[[An]]~~ In an image forming apparatus, to which a toner container comprising a toner is detachably attached, wherein said toner container comprises the improvement comprising using as the toner a toner according to claim 2.

Claim 18 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said toner container is a toner cartridge.

Claim 19 (Original): The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17, wherein said toner container is a process cartridge.

Claim 20 (New): The toner as claimed in claim 1, wherein toner particle formation does not involve a nitrogen-containing compound.